

Why Pride Causes Me Problems, Part 4 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-15 – September 21st, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part four of a series I've, titled, "Why Pride Causes Me Problems."
- I have to confess that throughout this study concerning the "Pride Problem," the Lord has been dealing with me personally on this matter.
- So much so, I find myself asking God to show me those areas of pride in my life, chiefly because of the problems pride creates for my life.

- I'm reminded of that saying concerning sin, which goes like this; "Sin is not bad because it's forbidden, sin is forbidden because it's bad."
- Such is the case with the sin of pride, such that, pride is forbidden because of the bad things that will happen when we become full of pride.
- It's for this very reason that Paul would write such a letter to these Corinthian Christians. He is warning them of the danger of their pride.

1. Pride propels me beyond what's Biblical (Verse 6a)

- We saw this starting with the first part of verse six where Paul warns them of the danger of pride propelling them beyond what is Biblical.

2. Pride deceives me to think I'm better than others (Verse 6b)

- In the second part of verse six he warns them of the danger of pride deceiving them into thinking that they are better than others.

3. Pride causes me to boast in my accomplishments (Verse 7)

- In verse seven he rebukes them and warns them concerning the danger of pride causing them to boast about their accomplishments.

4. Pride makes me think that I'm entitled (Verses 8-9)

- In verses eight and nine he warns them of the danger of pride making them think they're somehow entitled to all God blessed them with.

5. Pride makes me friends with the world (Verses 10-13)

- In verses ten through thirteen, which we look at last week Paul warns them about the danger of pride making them friends with the world.
- Enter today's text, and with it the sixth problem that pride causes in my life, namely, that of pride bringing me to disgrace and shame.

6. Pride brings me to disgrace and shame (Verses 14-15)

(14) I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. (15) Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

- v14 Paul makes it very clear that the purpose of him writing them this letter was not to shame them, but to warn them as his dear children.
- v15 He says they had 10,000 guardians in Christ but they didn't have many fathers, for in Christ he became their father through the gospel.
- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is the sensitivity Paul has towards them knowing that they are ashamed.

- I say that because of what he says in verse fourteen about his intention not being to shame them, but rather, he simply wants to warn them.
- While the strength of his writing certainly had the component of what one has called, "sanctified shaming," it was not the Apostles purpose.
- However, the shame and disgrace they must have felt by the time they got to this point in the epistle, was a good thing, and for a good end.
- I would suggest the good end to which Paul is hoping to lead them is for their tasting of humility that comes from the sweet cup of wisdom.

Proverbs 11:2 NIV When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a little bit as I share with you by way of example what this may actually look like in the life of a believer.
- One example is the embarrassment that comes by way of pride, when we're impatient with that cashier or customer service representative.
- Another example is the disgrace and humiliation that comes when we realize that God has had to humble us because we'd exalted our self.

The story is told of one of Spurgeon's students who went into the pulpit with every expression of confidence only to have an extremely difficult time. He came down disgraced, almost brokenhearted, and he went to Spurgeon about it. The words of Spurgeon to him were these, "If you had gone up as you came down, you would have come down as you went up."

F. B. Meyer of this wrote, "I used to think, that God's gifts were on shelves one above another and the taller we grow, the easier we can reach them. Now I find, that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath another and the lower we stoop, the more we get."

- Another reason I find what Paul writes here interesting is he compares by way of a contrast that of a father and of a guardian or instructor.
- What Paul is saying here is that vis-à-vis he had become their spiritual father, as it were and as such had the right to warn them in this way.
- In other words, Paul had sort of earned the right as their spiritual father to speak to them in a way that he couldn't if he were not their father.

One commentator said it best this way, "[As] his own children, Paul was free to speak to them with sharp and stinging words; if they were strangers, his words might be resented.

- In closing, I'll point out some take away's from our text today. First, pride isn't bad because it's forbidden, it's forbidden because it's bad.
- The second take away is, my pride will always bring me to both disgrace and shame whereas humility will always be catalyst for wisdom.
- The third and last take away is we may often times need God to warn us with those sharp and stinging words in His Word concerning pride.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV) — 12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.